

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Sixth Middlesex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.6% (1,833) of these admissions reside in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District. 2% (43) of admissions from the Sixth Middlesex Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Sixth Middlesex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 64% were male and 36% were female.
- 62% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 70% were white non-Latino, 10% were black non-Latino, 15% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 62% were never married, 13% were married, and 25% reported not to be married now.
- 30% had less than high school education, 49% completed high school, and 21% had more than high school education.
- 30% were employed.
- 28% were homeless.
- 36% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47%	31%	7%	6%	5%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003							
Sixth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,271	936	247	504	243	505	356
FY '96	1,577	1,175	404	623	353	644	506
FY '97	1,278	960	323	484	267	446	345
FY '98	1,257	888	279	387	220	432	347
FY '99	1,446	1,086	394	440	302	477	355
FY '00	1,682	1,202	404	434	283	583	457
FY '01	1,761	1,292	433	437	283	614	444
FY '02	1,754	1,271	420	397	320	545	424
FY '03	1,833	1,258	454	463	292	603	441

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

